

## Special Homecoming Edition



# The Bell Ringer



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## MBA's Science Faculty: Looking Back--and Ahead

by Johnny Sisk

In 1957, MBA's science teachers found a new home in the basement of the recently-completed Currey Gymnasium, as they moved their classes from the Carter Building, er, where the Carter Building *used* to be. They seemed to have adjusted relatively quickly to the dank dungeon. Making do with only the current Biology and Chemistry labs at first, it was years before they expanded to create the current Physics and AP labs.

Now, four decades later, the science department has once again made another move--this time, into one of the most ambitious construction projects ever undertaken on campus: the first building (other than the Davis Building) devoted solely to one specific subject. Therefore, like their predecessors, our current science instructors shouldn't have too much trouble adjusting to their new environment.

For the science department, the end of last year also marked the end of their tenure in those sacred halls. Deeming the end of the last year to be a true end of an era, many science instructors felt the need to express their joy and, at the same time, sadness at the realization of what they were about to lose.

"You're kidding me, right?" Mr. Pruitt utters sarcastically.

He did have one certain thing to say about science's exodus from the bellows of the gym for the science department's recent journey: "Woo-hoo!"

So, sitting down with some of our most unassuming science gurus, I asked them about their personal experiences working in the gymnasium basement. Their stories must be told.

Unlike Mr. Pruitt, some of his colleagues actually did express some sadness about relocating. Having been here only four years, Dr. Clark says of his AP Lab, "I'll kind of miss this room... I mean, I've taught more classes in this room than any other--the Hole they like to call it. Sure, it may be drab, dull, and gloomy--it has a little window over there--but I'm going to miss it."

Dr. Crowell, having worked here for much of his career, did comment, "I'm sure I'll have some moment of nostalgia, but it'll probably be very brief."

And when talking with Commander Carr about his memories of those soon-to-be-abandoned labs, his eyes watered just a bit behind those ever-present glasses. Then again, it may have just been the free-floating asbestos, which has, no doubt, lingered in those rooms for many years and has

achieved a special relationship with those it has touched. However, the Commander soon gathered his bearings and instead of looking back at the past, bravely looked toward the future of these doomed laboratories.

"When I look around these rooms, I don't see the past of MBA science. I see the future of MBA bowling. This is MBA's future bowling alley where the team will rise to heights never even imagined."

Leave it to the Commander to illustrate the true sentimentality of the moment, while, at the same time, providing yet another shameless plug for MBA's pioneer bowling quest.

Now, almost five months since I first chatted with these esteemed faculty members, I once again tracked them down to ask them about their recent pilgrimage to a very holy land. And, alas, the sun had come up the day after their quick departure from the gym. Sunshiny days from now on for the science department, it seems.

Dr. Crowell is quick to comment on the wise decision to put three classroom labs on each floor instead of the originally planned four. "The spacing seems to be working out exceptionally well.... Looks like it's going to be a terrific building. Especially with the art

panels for the lobby...they're going to be in color--full color--so they should be spectacular, and by Homecoming the building as whole should be spectacular. It really has turned out well."

Like his biology compadre, Mr. Chenery, Mr. Pruitt feels that the building is "awesome, much larger, a lot roomier, a lot airier--it's not in the bowels of a gym--it's a really neat place for learning. The building itself is great--has a lot of possibilities once everything is [hooked-up to the] Internet.... The lighting system and projectors are really nice.... It'll be nice when the construction's over, I guess. Now the old building..." Mr. Pruitt goes on, explaining what he thinks should be done with the gym basement without my having to ask.

"The weight room does need to be increased. What you need to do is look and see which sport has more people in them, and allocate the space in that way. Clearly football has more people in it, followed probably by track and wrestling. I would assume.... Utilizing it for something relatively more marginal like a *gun range*, I think clearly not useful for large numbers of people. Then, I think we definitely need a large track coaches' office, a track coaches' lounge, track video room, cross country coaches' office and lounge, and then a very large track locker room and cross-country lounge and locker room, and probably a swimming pool for the track team as well."

"Also, I would like to see an expanded training room. It's just too small, not enough room for people at certain times. You know, I'm not a big fan of whirlpools; I want more ways to get ice on kids quickly and get them taped quickly. We don't need hot tubs for football managers to lounge around in for G-d's sake.... That's fairly useless."

See "Science Teachers," pg. 2

### Bell Ringer Student Poll

See Steven Syverud's article, pg. 2, for more information on student reactions

#### What do you like best about the new science building?

Better bathrooms (auto-flush toilets):	41%
Sun dial:	19%
Other (see article, pg.2):	15%
Better lab equipment:	13%
More space:	12%

#### What do you like least about the new science building?

Other (see article, pg.2):	30%
Scientists' names around the building:	25%
Can't really see the Ball Building from West End:	16%
Absence of traditional colonnade on West End side:	12%
Too much space:	9%
Sun dial:	8%



"Commander" Carr,  
Chemistry Teacher

"I've always liked sunlight...as opposed to being in the dungeon. I've always thought it was good for you, Vitamin D and all that."

I haven't been able to find the jacuzzi and the sauna [in the new building], I'm still looking for both of those."

"I'll kind of miss the [AP Lab].... I mean, I've taught more classes in that room than any other--the Hole they like to call it. Sure, it may be drab, dull, and gloomy--it has a little window over there--but I'm going to miss it."



Dr. Clark, Physics Teacher

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## News Briefs

### Reaching out to St. Paul

By Andy Andrews

Most of you probably haven't heard of St. Vincent de Paul School. For most MBA students, it simply isn't a part of the community. Since 1997, though, a small but growing number of students have recognized the value in reaching out to this school, founded in 1932 by Catholic Sisters of Mercy to minister administrator to the African-American community. Most every week day, an MBA "big brother" drives down to Jefferson Street to help out with the St. Vincent after-school care program from about 3:30 to 5:30. At the school, each "big brother" helps children, generally in grades K-5, do their homework, then ventures outside to play kickball, basketball, or—just—play. The kids love seeing their high-school visitors, who are greeted with smiles, yells, and anxious requests to join a kickball team or watch a new jump rope skill.

By helping St. Vincent MBA reaches into a new community, and opens the door to more diversity on campus. St. Vincent has already sent graduates to The Hill, and MBA can only look forward to a closer relationship with this fine school as we show just what we are capable of doing as a community. If you are interested in becoming a St. Vincent "big brother," please contact me, Andy Andrews. I would love to work with you!

### "Habitat for Humanity" Completes Project

By Sumeet Vaikunth

MBA and Harpeth Hall worked jointly on a Habitat for Humanity house from the last two weekends of the summer through the first three weekends of the school year, excluding the Labor Day weekend.

Many people came out to work on the project like members of the football and cross-country teams as well as many others who worked several shifts. Josh Eaves and Robert Womack led the effort as they worked every shift throughout the weekends. The preliminary stages of planning and raising the \$45,000 needed to build the house began last year. Thus, through great teamwork the fundraising and scheduling goals were met. The site of the project was Delk Avenue, and Krystal Jackson and her children were the recipients of the house. On August 21st, work began with only a foundation. By the end of the day, the walls were up. August 22nd encompassed the beginnings of the roof. After the roof was completed in the middle of the day, putting up the siding was the main task of August 28th. With the majority of the outside work complete by the end of August 29th, work resumed September 12th with an assortment of different indoor jobs including assembling cabinets and sinks, caulking, and painting. The painting, though, was not complete by the end of the day. They decided to paint on September 15th to insure that the house would be finished on schedule. On September 18th, the landscaping as well as some interior work was done. The next morning, the finishing touches and final cleaning were completed by 2:00 when the dedication ceremony was held.

### What Happened to the Traditional Ninth Grade Retreat to the Ocoee River?

By Matthew Brinton

As the ninth grade begins the school year, there is a nagging question in our minds which is, "What happened to our retreat?" In previous years, the ninth graders would go to the Ocoee River and spend a day white-water rafting. Now, that is all in the past. The following is an anonymous poll of some disgruntled ninth graders who had some interesting comments to make.

"It's not fair!"

"I guess it was too dangerous with the insurance and all."

"They lost a teacher last time."

"They did it last year!"

"It's not fair!"

The most common result was "It's not fair!", but I can't see that losing a teacher would be a bad idea. Here are some comments on the replacement retreat:

"The food was kinda good."

"It was boring."

"The other one would have been better."

I have also heard from more than one student that a conspiracy was the cause, which would demoralize the students, like the "give more demerits" one did.

The teachers allegedly refer to this as "real life."

## Students' Reactions

### Most, but not everyone, pleased with amenities of new building

By Steven Syverud

Students and teachers began this semester's round of science classes in MBA's spectacular, and newest, building. The first classes in the \$6.845 million E. Bronson Ingram Science Building were held on September 1, 1999.

Most students are pleased with the facility (see "Poll," pg. 1), commenting the building has a "nicer atmosphere" and that "it is much easier to concentrate" now. There was positive feedback on the "areas of refuge" and the Ingram star constellation.

But not everyone had such high praise; as with anything new, the building has experienced some growing pains. Students think the distance they are required to travel from the Science Building to other parts of campus is too much for them to be expected to get their next classes on time. Many were disturbed by the loudness of the fire alarm went, and others by the new look with the lack of a traditional colonnade on the West End Avenue side and the earth, fire, and water weather vanes. One student said his missed the basement.

Critics do point out that other departments, math especially, are forced to make do in closet-sized classrooms.

### Science Teachers Look Ahead

(cont. from pg. 1)

Responding to certain critics' claims that the new science building is too large and is not being used as efficiently as possible, Coach Pruitt responds, "Well, the easy response. The obvious one is, well, that's horse-hoey." Finally, he spoke about one of the building's most attractive features: the most technologically stunning urinals and toilets on campus.

"First of all, the automatic flush urinals work fine at 3.8 liters per flush; however, the automatic flush-toilet at 3.8 liters per flush is an inadequate water flow to get the job done...and I must say, after seeing other toilets at this school, automatic flush is a good idea...a little more healthful, a little bit more clean for most of us."

A personal thank-you to Coach Pruitt for not only pointing out some of the new facility's unique features and old gym's most vital needs but also raising the bathroom health awareness on campus.

Meanwhile, MBA chemistry commander, Mr. Carr, has been thinking about the new building since our first tear-jerking interview. When asked about the appearance of natural light in the science department for the first time in forty years, Commander simply re-

sponds, "I've always liked sunlight...as opposed to being in the dungeon and living under phosphorescent bulbs, getting this gray pallor. I've always liked sunlight; I've always thought it was good for you, Vitamin D and all that. That's biology stuff, but we chemists go for that, too."

His biggest complaints about the building: "I haven't been able to find the jacuzzi and the sauna. I'm still looking for both of those. I think we're putting our weight room down next to the chemistry teachers' lounge. I'm waiting for those things to happen."

Dr. Crowell adds one final comment: "The one thing that schools seem to think these days is that if they build a new building, students' grades will go up. But in the end, that doesn't make nearly as much difference as the teachers themselves do."

The influence teachers such as these have provided the last fifty years from the basement of an aging gym have finally been rewarded with a new, well-deserved facility. While the MBA community should appreciate the new campus additions for the advantages they provide, we should feel even more proud and privileged to have been lucky enough to work with the teachers who truly make the learning experience here worthwhile.



## MBA Welcomes New Faculty for 1999-2000

### Ivy Jackson Ashworth

Mrs. Ashworth attended Trinity Preparatory School in Montgomery, Alabama, where she graduated as Valedictorian before matriculating at Vanderbilt University (B.S. in Chemistry, 1996). She then returned to Montgomery to teach chemistry at Montgomery Academy for the past three years.



Married this summer, Mrs. Ashworth returns to Nashville in her new role teaching chemistry and IPS at MBA. She is working with both the rifle and cheerleading programs.

### Edward T. McBride

Mr. McBride grew up in New Jersey where he attended a Catholic high school. He then studied American History at Franklin and Marshall College, where he graduated in 1987. After completing an intern position at Culver Academy, he began his full-time teaching career at the Asheville School, where he has



served in a variety of roles since 1988. Most recently, Mr. McBride has served as Dean of Students at Asheville School, taught AP U.S. History, and held the position as head coach for the varsity wrestling team. He is teaching history and will be working wrestling and soccer and assisting with various administrative responsibilities at MBA.

### Bryan White

Mr. White grew up in Minnesota and then attended Stanford University (B.S.-Biology, B.A. Japanese 1997). For the past two years he has been enrolled at the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. After teaching a health curriculum throughout the Chicago area and working with 60 classes of 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders, Mr. White decided that he wanted to interrupt his medical studies to consider teaching as another important career. He will be teaching Biology and a Health and Substance Abuse curriculum to our high school students next year. He will also be actively involved in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Responsible Living class. Bryan will be assisting as well with the Microbe basketball teams and intramural program.



### Michael A. T. Marro

Dr. Marro grew up in the Chicago area and attended St. Ignatius College Prep. He then pursued an undergraduate degree at the College of the Holy Cross (B.A. Chemistry 1989), graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame (M.S. Chemistry 1992), and further studies at George Washington University (Ph.D. Chemistry 1997). Several of his classmates at St. Ignatius and Dr. Marro made a promise that they would return to their high school to teach. For the past two years, he has taught Chemistry and Physics at St. Ignatius Prep. He was also actively involved in a number of extracurricular activities ranging from the scorekeeper for basketball games and a great advisor to many of the students. Dr. Marro's wife, Lisa, was appointed a member of the medical staff at Memorial Hospital. He is teaching IPS and Physics in our science department.



### Dan Cooper

Mr. Cooper grew up in Rochester, NY, and went to Hartwick College. The newest addition to MBA's faculty, Mr. Cooper is teaching pre-Algebra in the junior school and is an assistant lacrosse coach. He is working in the athletic and alumni/development offices as a part of MBA's intern program.



### Brian Popovich

Mr. Popovich grew up outside of Cleveland, Ohio, and then came to Nashville to study at Vanderbilt University, where he majored in English and education and played varsity baseball (B.S. English 1991). He has spent the last eight years in Nashville in a variety of roles, but for the last two years he has taught English as a Second Language at Nashville State Technical Institute. He also completed graduate work at TSU during this time. He has also coached a number of Little League teams and worked with youth in the Nashville area. Brian is teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade English and will be working with the baseball program.



### Victoria Lancellota

Dr. Lancellota received an undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, an MFA from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Southern Mississippi. She and her husband, Steve Conti, moved to Nashville this past year. Victoria has been eager to return to an academic setting where she has certainly been very involved the past ten years through her writing and teaching. She published many works of fiction and received a number of awards and fellowships for her writing. One of her advisors over the years has been Madison Smartt Bell, a graduate of MBA and one of our country's most important writers.



### Jerry Meyer

Mr. Meyer grew up in Nashville and attended David Lipscomb High School. He then studied at The University of Minnesota at Duluth and finished his undergraduate degree at David Lipscomb University (B.A. Political Science and Philosophy, 1995). Throughout his high school and college career, Jerry was an outstanding basketball player, receiving recognition as an Academic All-American three different times. He also



holds several impressive records in basketball and is known as a successful coach throughout the state and the country. This past year Mr. Meyer served as an assistant basketball at Vanderbilt University. He decided at the end of this past season that he would like to teach and to coach in high school. He is interested in philosophy and literature, and he is teaching sophomore English and coaching basketball at MBA this year. Mr. Meyer and his wife Mary Kate to MBA, are the proud parents of Owen Rainer Meyer, who was born last fall.

### Jay Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, where he attended Lovett School and was taught and coached by Luther Killian. After graduating from Lovett, Mr. Jenkins attended Hampden-Sydney College, where he majored in political



science and Spanish. For two years after college he worked with a financial company in Virginia and then changed careers to teaching. He taught Ancient Civilization and American History at the Lovett School from 1992-95. In 1995 he met his wife, Jacque, in Atlanta, and the two have lived in Scotland for the past four years, where he has pursued a M.Phil. in European Politics and History. He is teaching European History and working with the wrestling and football programs at MBA.

### Rashida Browne

Ms. Browne grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she was the oldest of five children and attended a Catholic girls school. Active in a multitude of sports in high school, she focused on the fine arts at Xavier University in New Orleans. For the past two years she attended the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University (B.A. in 1997; M.A. in 1999). At MBA, Ms. Browne is teaching Art I and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Art. She is also involved with cross-country, photography, and the Service Club.



### Peter Thurmond

Mr. Thurmond spent most of his younger days under the tutelage of Martha Thurmond, both at home and on the campus of Westminster Schools. He then attended Vanderbilt University where he received a B.A. in Economics in 1987. From 1987-1992 he served in the capacity of an assistant football coach for several college programs. He then decided that working with young people, particularly junior school and high school age individuals, was best suited for him. He taught at Montgomery Bell Academy in the 1993-94 academic year and then moved on to BGA where he has taught Algebra and Geometry and served as the head coach for the varsity football program. He has assisted in a variety of ways at BGA, coaching both middle school basketball and baseball. Mr. Thurmond and his wife, Tracie, have two children, Sally and Ponder. Peter is serving as the Director of the Junior School and teaching in the math department.





## Joint School Trip to England & France

By Andy Gray

A snobbish citizenry, lame sports, and abounding terrorism—such is the reputation of the England and France in the minds of many Americans.

However, being skeptical of this reputation, I was eager to travel to these destinations to judge for myself. Two days after graduation, a band of twenty-two MBA and Harpeth Hall students, including myself, under the watchful eyes of Dr. Griffith, Mrs.

O'Connell, and Mrs. Grimes, set out on a tour of French and English cities. For a few the trip was an unprecedented international experience, for others just

another term overseas. Everyone invariably had a spectacular time and understood something new.

After a grueling seven-hour flight across the Atlantic, the group exited Heathrow Airport and made its way to the supposedly-luxurious Charles Dickens Hotel in London where we spent four days and nights. On our second day in London, our group combined with another group from Louisville, Kentucky. Most of us were eager to meet a few new people and possibly make a few new friends. However, we were

rather disappointed upon meeting them. With one or two exceptions, the entire eight member group was awfully boring. However, the two exceptions present

were two very shady guys known affectionately to us as "Scary Gary" and "Spiky Mike." Each male member of our group had to room at least one night with the guys, resulting in a great deal of apprehension, especially after Gary and Mike bought swords in a weapons shop in Mont Saint-Michel. Outside of one minor sword altercation, however, everyone got away without harm from Gary and Mike.

While in London the group visited the National Gallery Museum and

the British Museum, both of which exhibited more fascinating art works and relics than there was time enough to view.

Also, Buckingham Palace, the Parliament buildings, and a general tour of the city gave a great introduction to English culture. The weather was overcast and rainy much of our time in London, but the temperature was generally pleasant. Two trips were made to the theater in London. First, the students viewed the play *An Inspector Calls* written by J.B. Priestley in Garrick Theater. The theater was small and rat-infested, but very ornate and attractive at the same time, and the play was fantastic. Another night, we saw the modern comedy *Art* in another theater.

See "MBA/HH Trip," pg. 12



## Peaks Trip Embodies Man's Quest to the West

By Will Choppin

This summer, best time spent is definitely the two weeks on the eighth grade graduation trip: Peaks.

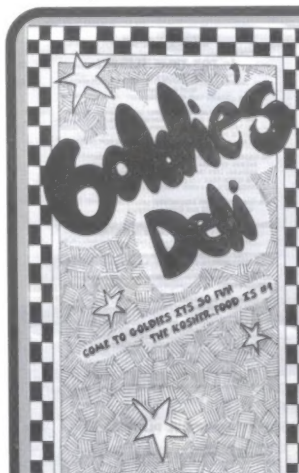
Mr. Russell and his wife Gina led the fabulous trip. The lucky-10 on the trip was Bennett Graham, Chris Lathrop, Peter Power, Nathan Mulherin, Chris Douse, Hunter Foreman, Rob Shell, Paul Reynolds, Brett Simpson, and myself. In this fourteen days, we spent our time traveling to great destination points, playing cards and such, catching a few movies, and much more. The first day, our destination was Texarkana, Arkansas. That night, we got to see *Star Wars*. For some people, it was their first time. But for the rest, seeing that for the third and fourth times drove us crazy! However, it filled up van-time making jokes about it. The second day, we packed up and hit the road again for an even longer road trip. We got to Abilene, Texas around six o' clock. We stayed the night at a KOA center, where we had access to a ping-pong table, a TV, and a basketball goal. But when they all had to close, Mr. Russell was nice enough to take us to Dairy Queen. The next morning, we ventured off to Carlsbad, New Mexico for a two-night stay. There, we ate Mexican food one night and went exploring in a cave with a weird tour guide named Chris. Exploring the cave was a good experience, and at the very end we all experienced true pitch black, as we all were prompted by tour-guide Chris to turn our flashlights off at the back of the cave. While in Carlsbad, we also went to a local oil drill. Except for poor Bennett who had "the grand-daddy of swimmer's ear and spent his time at a clinic. Learning about oil drilling, the

most popular career in Carlsbad for those without a college education, was an interesting experience. We then left Carlsbad and traveled on. We visited the Petrified Forest and the national monument White Sands. White Sands has to be my favorite part of the trip. White Sands is miles and miles of land filled with pure white sand dunes. Jumping of the dunes, or pushing people off the dunes, and landing in the soft sand and rolling downhill was incredibly fun. Our next destination was the Grand Canyon. We stayed in a local camp vicinity for three days. The fun started the second we got there. Mr. Russell was telling us his rules and regulations of how close you can get to the Canyon, and that he will kill you if you throw something down the canyon. That instant, Brett Simpson's favorite Cubs hat was hit by a gust of wind and flew down the canyon. Because of the heat exertion, he had to wear an artificial turban while hiking the canyon. We also celebrated Chris Douse's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had cake, which soon was on people's faces rather than in their mouths, me especially. The last night at the Grand Canyon, we watched the amazing IMAX on *Secrets of the Grand Canyon*. After the grand canyon, we ventured off to Durango, Colorado. Our first night there, we actually persuaded Mr. Russell to take us to a local movie theater and see *Austin Powers*. That was great for us, but Mr. Russell and Gina left the theater in disgust 30 minutes into the movie. The day after that, we rode a train on the narrow-gauge railroad from Durango to Silverton, spent some time shopping and such in Silverton, and rode the train back. The last two nights of the trip, we were lucky enough to stay the nights in a Days

Inn. Sadly, our fabulous trip was coming to an end. We arrived home June 21<sup>st</sup>, only to live on the great memories of the fabulous trip.

I will leave you with a few quotations by which to remember the trip: Mr. Russell, "Easy! Yeah, babe!"; Hunter, "How many stars are there?"; Will, "I

dunno"; Hunter "I'm going to be the first to count them all! (then flash goofy smile)"; Rob, "I am not a hick!"; Paul, "Rob Lowe WAS in that movie!"; Brett, "I drank this two liters of Coke and Sprite in two seconds because I'm thirsty!".



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## Piracy in Frist Hall ?

by Robert Womack

Lately, the talk around campus during lunch periods has been centered on disgust over the raised prices of the food supplied by Sodexho. Some students can remember the good old days in middle school when a carton of milk cost a mere 35 cents. Now, during break, a student can purchase a carton of milk and an unbaked chocolate chip cookie for upwards of \$1.30. Most of these students buy lunch as well. A typical lunch would most likely consist of

a Hot Pocket, lemonade, a salad, and a candy bar. An average lunch such as this would cost \$5.75 to \$6.00 or more. This amount, plus the cost allotted to a snack at break, would cost a student around six and a half dollars a day for mediocre food. A student could go to Mr. Gatti's and purchase the lunch buffet with a drink at about the same cost as a Sodexho lunch. Now, you tell me, would you rather have a lunch of unlimited pizza, breadsticks, pasta, those dessert pizzas, salad and drinks, or a regular

school lunch? I thought as much. I, personally, bring my lunch. One day, however, I left that lunch in the fridge at home and was forced to purchase my lunch. I got a bowl of salad to accompany the rest of my meal. Now this bowl is not a large bowl at all. I am talking about those pink bowls that can hold about maybe a cup or two of lettuce and other toppings. I went up there expecting to not pay a great amount for a lunch that would not even fill me up. The salad

alone, however, cost \$2.10. I was understandably upset, and the worker told me that "I just work here, and you can go fill it up to the top if you want." I did not want to argue with her, so I grudgingly coughed up 6 dollars total for my whole lunch, and went to 6<sup>th</sup> period still hungry. Some members of the senior class have expressed such disgust over this organized robbery that they have talked about possibly forming a boycott

## Dreamcast Worth the Wait?

By Jamie Sperring

As a veteran of multiple game systems, most of which, save the Sony Playstation, have been disappointments, I have become quite experienced in



determining whether or not a system is really worth the trouble, or cost, of purchasing.

Sega's most recent attempt at making a comeback back from its disastrous CD and Saturn efforts, is a force to be reckoned with. It was finally released, after months of waiting, on September 9, 1999. Containing 16MB of RAM, a PowerVR-based graphics chip, a 3D intense CPU, and a built-in 56k modem, this unit has to be the most impressive system I have ever seen. The games themselves no longer have the grainy, rough appearance they used to. With its 128-bit system, these new games prove spectacular. Sega, trying to get a head start on the competition, has come out with over 50 games already. Having only experienced two of the 82 total games created, Sonic and Soul Caliber, I can truly say that Sega may be experiencing a genuine resurgence.

Its most impressive game so far, Soul Caliber, is a one-on-one fighting game. Improving on its predecessors lead, such as Mortal Kombat, the game play is so smooth that it resembles a Japanese anime. The characters exhibit lightning-quick motion, sometimes so fast as to be distracting to the player, but it's worth it. Likewise, the new Sonic the hedgehog's graphics are absolutely phenomenal. For example, the multiple camera angles alternate giving the player a slew of different views such as Sonic running in front of a giant killer whale as

it leaps from the water to destroy the small bridge along which Sonic is running. As the surge of water rushes out three-dimensionally, one can see the true power of the Dreamcast. No other video game system has ever come close to the extreme detail put into these games. Another game, soon to be released, contains a full map of Tokyo in which the player is able to explore and interact in the huge city. Each character whom the player meets has a different personality and set of lines. This game will change the face of RPG's as we know it. Even better, many more exciting games are on the way.

To accompany its new Dreamcast and 82 games, Sega has also come out with a host of add-ons and extras. From light guns to steering consoles, Sega has gone all out. Even though half of the new accessories prove virtually useless to many of the games so far, the quantity of them by itself is impressive. At about half the size of Playstation and weighing about the same, the Dreamcast is thicker than Sony's system in order to accommodate the astounding gaming system held within. This unit is the most extraordinary and ground-breaking system ever to hit the market. But the real question is whether or not game players will really want to buy it.

The starting price for the Dreamcast is \$199, inexpensive when compared to other game systems on the market. Others, such as the Super Nintendo System, if put into today's economic prices, would equal about \$250 for a starting price. Each game will cost about \$60, the same as any Nintendo 64 game. Even with its great value, there is still the danger that Dreamcast will be overwhelmed by other systems soon to be released such as Sony's Playstation 2. But, in the end, Dreamcast was definitely worth the wait.



## The Bell Ringer

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to [ringer@montgomerybell.com](mailto:ringer@montgomerybell.com). These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. EverReady Printing in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.



## Post-Football Parties

By Jamie Ranson

The first post-football game party was held in the small gym September 3, 1999, after the Big Red heartily defeated Baylor, 34-0. This party featured free food and drinks, as well as sophomore Deke Shearon strutting his stuff as the DJ. There was a great amount of speculation during school that week as to how much fun this event would be.

Despite such great prospects and the post-game excitement, the great majority of the opinions voiced at this party were in the form of complaints. The dancing was kept to a minimum, with the number of people actually dancing being countable on one hand.

The MBA populace was not to be disappointed. The second party, christened by Senior Class President Johnny Sisk as the "Big Red Boogie Bash," and held after the Big Red football team gave a thorough beating to the Brentwood Academy Eagles, was definitely much improved over the first according to the reactions of the student body. There was a live band, the Harlem Refugees,

featuring MBA's own Steven Warren (guitar), John Voigt (vocals), Paul Steele (drums) and Jonathan Estes (bass), as well as Audrey Ball (vocals), with special appearances by Judson Mulherin (sax) and Blake Esterday (trombone) as the Harlem Horns. Several stage guests, including Joanie McEnry and Ben Sabel, added to the rockin' atmosphere, as did John's versatile and spirited dance moves. A problem with microphones proved to be only a minor setback for the Refugees. The music was awesome, the level of energy went through the roof and a great many danced the night away with great excitement.

The social front was equally active, especially with the presence of more upperclassmen than there were at the first party. Lively crowds of MBA students and their female friends filled the gym, talking, joking, and generally having a blast. Every opinion I heard was one of excitement and enjoyment; thus, I hereby declare the Big Red Boogie Bash an outstanding success, we all can't wait for the next one.

## Traditions Need to be Kept

By Michael Pass

Montgomery Bell Academy is a school that has a long and rich tradition of guys doing guy things—grunting, for instance. Grunting is a wholesome and masculine expression of our inner feelings on a certain subject matter. For a long time now, grunting has been a way in which we express our school spirit at pep-rallies. Recently, however, our great tradition has been tainted. This unfortunate incidence was caused by a few unfortunate students being hurt during a grunting contest. Therefore, grunting was removed from the pep-rallies. However, only after a large amount of complaints and protests, grunting was reactivated in the pep-rally.

It seems in today's society grunting has become politically incorrect. It is not proper, and can cause injuries. MBA authorities fear lawsuits and the dissatisfaction of a minute fraction of the parents. To me, this is nothing short of an outrage. MBA has always been a place where masculinity and the natural functions of boys were recognized as a great quality rather than scorned. We did things differently here at MBA. Guys were not expected to act like girls, but, instead, to act like guys. This year, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are no longer allowed to horseplay on the hill at football games because of a few scrapes and scratches. A great tradition of fun has been destroyed for younger students. How much farther will school authorities go? Being rough and getting dirty is fun, and we like enthusiastically supporting our school. That is what this place is all about,

producing strong, smart, and well rounded men.

Last year, "flesh-piles" were outlawed at school. Although no one was ever hurt in a flesh-pile, to some it seemed uncouth and unbecoming of a gentleman. I disagree. Being at the bottom of a flesh-pile is a great metaphor for life. You are a freshman and new in high school, and possibly to MBA. Your at the bottom of the food-chain and vulnerable. If you are humble and a good guy, others respect that fact and you are on the path to having a great high school career. On the other hand, you might be an arrogant and egotistical freshman, with no respect or gratitude for your older and more experienced peers. These personality traits make you a good candidate for finding your self at the bottom of a large pile of seniors. Excuse me if you disagree, but I think this is undoubtedly one of the most efficient tools in the educational department, for building good character. The former arrogant young man has now been transformed into a humble and respectful gentleman. Without the flesh pile, he might have continued on his way as a self-centered jerk, and never gotten a good job or helped the human race. He now has a greater understanding and respect for his elder peers.

I think it is clear that grunting has a sacred place on the hill at football games, and that MBA is a great place for 7<sup>th</sup> graders to horseplay. And remember, flesh-piles are a microcosm of society as a whole.

Lets cherish these essential parts of our MBA experience.

## Sophomore Parking

By Tommy McGinn

As another school year rolls in, the sophomores of MBA have been shocked and disappointed to find out there is nowhere no park. If you haven't heard already, the sophomore parking lot has been taken over by the invasion forces of the construction company hired by MBA to work on our beautiful, lovely, well designed campus. I, being a member of MBA's extraordinary sophomore class, was overwhelmed with grief over the news and was left feeling betrayed. Now, I know that statement may sound a but extreme, but for as long as I can remember, I've wanted to drive. Not only to drive, but tp drive to school and park there. When I came to MBA it appeared that my dream could become reality. But this appearance was no more secure than the Carter building as they both came crashing down this summer. Being the responsible, concerned sophomore that I am, I went to Mr. Regen to get some answers to the sophomore class's questions concerning its rights, but he had little to say.

Moreover, I'd encourage anyone with questions or comments to contact him immediately, I'm sure he'd love to talk about it. But now I must ask myself, where am I to get the \$225 a year to park at Bricksworth. Now, I don't mean to sound cheap or anything, but why pay that much money to park a block away from school when plenty of sophomore classes before me were granted the use of a sophomore parking lot right next to school?

I did some brainstorming about possible solutions to our sophomore's parking plight and came up with a pretty

good idea. Why cant the construction workers be more like firemen and all live in a big house? When the special construction alarm goes off, which means a building is ready to be built, they all slide down the poles and jump into the back of a huge pickup truck. Then they speed away toward the construction site, that way they wouldn't have to use all our spaces to park. This idea didn't fly too well with the construction workers labor union so I turned to the only person that could possibly offer the wisdom needed to solve this problem, Philip Dempsey. When I asked him for his sage advice, he simply replied, "When I get a horse I'm gonna name it 'Pretty' because horses are pretty!" After hearing these shocking words I stood still for a moment, still contemplating what I had just heard. His words were like magic, they were brilliant, yet also baffled me. Then it hit me, I understood fully what the solution is: Horses. Why I hadn't thought of this before frustrated me. Horses are the ideal form of transportation to school and back. Sophomores could ride horses to school and let them graze on the football field, they'd even be able to fertilize it at the same time; also, I think stables would make a great addition to MBA's growing empire. But until we buy the horses, I'd encourage sophomores to get in good with someone who lives close to MBA and park at their house. Well, hopefully someday our parking lot will be restored to its rightful users; but until then, fight the good fight and think up some creative ways to get around the parking dilemma (and when you do tell me).

## Teachers at MBA

By Dominick Smith

Here at MBA, the teachers usually take on a typical outlook on giving demerits. The subject that they teach greatly influences their views on such an important matter in secondary school education. The cynics, mainly characterized by the Science Department, seem to enjoy giving demerits to students. Almost all of these teachers are fair and uniform in their demerit giving, but some of these teachers like to pick on students they dislike. For example, some cynics put every student they see with a shirt untucked or food and drink outside the lunch room on the demerit list. Some of these science teachers, however, like to find one student and let all of their anxieties and frustrations out on that poor soul. Often teachers will give demerits for things such as shoelaces untied, being one second late to class, or even not being clean shaven. How many teachers still give demerits for not being clean shaven? On the other hand, the

English, History, and Math teachers typically use demerits as a last resort. Some students believe that this is because they have some inkling of creativity. For example, if a student is eating potato chips between classes, an English teacher would most likely provide the student with some profound and deep reason why the student should not eat between classes. If a Chemistry or Physics teachers were to see this same student in the same circumstances, the student would be tapped on the shoulder and slapped with 2.5 hours of demerit hall. It can sometimes get very dangerous at M.B.A. as students are constantly trying to avoid the Science teachers. Students will hide behind each other to avoid their tennis shoes being spotted or sometimes even run to avoid the watchful and decisive eye of a chemist. Luckily, for most students, the scientists have their own building now, where they can plot and strategize until something important comes along.



## Summer Movies Display Travesties in Filmmaking

By Deke Shearon

Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace - Does anyone else think that George Lucas is a pet cat, an exotic accent, and some Fly Girls away from being a bad James Bond villain? All a t - t h i s p a r t t e m p t s t o e n j o y m o v i e o n m y s e e m f o r c e d ; i t ' s s i m p l y n o t m y e r a t i o n . I n 20 y e a r s , i f I ' m s t a n d i n g i n l i n e f o r G h o s t b u s t e r s : E p i s o d e 3 : R e v e n g e o f W i n s t o n , r e m i n d m e t o d i s e m b o w e l m y s e l f . W h y s h o u l d a n y m o v i e h a v e t h r e e , c o u n t ' e m , t h r e e c o l o n s i n t h e t i t l e ?

Eyes Wide Shut - Nicole Kidman nekkiid + the most brilliant director of all time + Maverick + Chris Isaak + Nicole Kidman nekkiid = high marks from Deke.

The Blair Witch Project - I really dug it, but people's reactions ranged from "dude, that was scarier'n a urologist from Singapore" to "grunt, grunt, too much cussin'". The most innovative use of camcorder technology since Pam and Tommy Lee.

Wild, Wild West - Kenneth Branagh? Oh, he's the guy who tried to convince us that Robert De Niro could work as the ster in kenstein. member thought Kevin Oh, he transves-

Ready to shell out \$7 yet? Will Smith? Without a straight man like Tommy Lee

Jones, he's nothing. Why is this guy more entertaining at awards shows than at his S a l m a I s t h i s a

movie? movie equiva- t h e f o o t b a l l p l a y e r w h o i s n ' t e v e n g o o d a t f o o t b a l l .

Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me - Funnier than a three-legged drunk dyslexic dog chasing its nonexistent tail, the movie that proved that Canada is indeed not useless after all, for it bore Mike Myers. Oh, but one snag. Mini-Me, I'm sorry, but you're not gonna have a career beyond this one. The idea of "small guy beating big guy up", "small guy saying big, bad words"

and "small guy with hot girls" gets old after a couple seconds.

The Sixth Sense - Scary, smart, and innovative all at the same time. A breath of fresh air in an otherwise smothered summer. It also featured the first child actor I've seen upon whom I haven't wished a tractor accident after seeing the movie. Bruce Willis unfortunately has one Pulp Fiction or The Sixth Sense for every Mercury Rising or Die Hard 2: Die Harder.

The Haunting - Qui-Gon Jinn, the redneck from Armageddon, and the chick from The Mask of Zorro wandering through a haunted house. Oh, and from the director of Speed 2: Cruise Control. Memo to Mr. Neeson: British accent does not equal credibility. And you have bad teeth.

## The Muse & Outside Providence Give Good Laughs

Two Very Different but Effective Kinds of Comedy Come Out on Video

By Will Choppin

The two major comedic movies out right now are PG-13 rated *The Muse* (coarse language, unclothed backside of Sharon Stone) and R rated *Outside Providence* (strong language and excessive use of drugs). Both of them are excellent films. However, they each come from different directors who each have different senses of humor.

Al Brooks directed and starred in the first class comedy *The Muse*. The film is about a screenwriter, Steven Phillips, who has lost his touch for the past few years. A friend of his tells him he must take a long break, for he is trying too hard and getting nowhere. Also, Brian De Palma needs his office. Steven is shocked at this news and starts to panic. He has a family to raise, and he is, or was, the moneymaker in the family. He goes to a friend of his. His friend tells him about the Muses in Greek Mythology, and that there is still one alive named Sarah. This Muse is the key to Steven's comeback, although there are many, many drawbacks, like when Steven first meets the Muse, he must have a gift for her. She then desires limousine service, on call demands, and much more. All expenses come out of Steven's money. However, she claims it will not matter after millions and millions of dollars come in for a top-notch script. As the movie progresses, Steven seems to have gotten nowhere, and Sarah has not been by his side helping him. She does however give him a few ideas, and he comes up with an incredible script. Steven then learns more about Sarah and his script, which puts

him back where he started. But, enough on the plot of this movie. On screen cameos of directors include Rob Reiner, Martin Scorsese, and James Cameron. I give this movie three and a half stars, for an excellent plot and for Brooks' and Stone's great performances. I believe that this is the movie thus far that will take on the Oscars like *Shakespeare in Love* did.

The Farrelly Brothers (*Dumb and Dumber*, *There's Something About Mary*) created the hit comedy *Outside Providence*. It seems that their movies keep on getting better and better. This one kept me laughing until the end. This movie, set in the '70s, is about a senior, Timothy Dunphy, who is driving around with his friends, and they hit a parked police car. His father, played by Alec Baldwin, sends him to a prep school to finish his senior year. The humor gets going as a punk kid gets involved with a bunch of prep school boys. The female relief character is a senior named Jane Weston. She is the typical prep girl who is accepted to Brown University. Jane and Timothy are both attracted to each other and are together throughout the movie. The movie is drop dead hilarious, but also touching at some points. Timothy and his father do not have the best father-son relationship, but there are a few heart-warming Kodak moments between them. Probably my favorite part of the movie is the soundtrack; an example is Lynyrd Skynyrd's *Freebird* being played during the big emotional climax. The Farrelly Brothers are known for their high amount of perturbed comedy, but this movie is a change. They did a great job with this

movie, being both funny and good-natured. I give this movie three stars, because it is the first movie that shows the Farrelly brothers are more than just perturbed, yet funny, filmmakers.

*The Muse*, although rated PG-13, is more of an adult, or sophisticated, comedy. *Outside Providence* is the typical teen comedy and probably attracts a much larger crowd. The message of *The Muse* is that you can do everything on

your own. You can do anything if you put your mind to it, and you certainly don't need a Muse for anything. For *Outside Providence*, the message is that you can do anything with your life, you must determine what road you take and you must take responsibilities. Although both of these movies come from different atmospheres, they are both incredible movies and they are both worth paying the full seven dollars for a ticket.

## Three Kings: A War Movie That's Not Worth It

By Will Choppin

"We Three Kings be stealin' the gold!" is a line you may have heard from the trailer. But there's more: there are four people! Using the Biblical allusion "Three Kings" is just phony.

The movie is bad from the start. Set after the Gulf War, Troy Barlow (Mark Wahlberg) states that he has not seen any action in the war, so he aims his gun at a random soldier, on his side of the war, and shoots him! Why did he shoot the man? He said it was for action, but it seems like he shot the man for pleasure and out of stupidity.

Unlike *Saving Private Ryan*, which is a fictitious story set during World War II, this movie is a fictitious story set after the Gulf War is over and done with. Then why then are the Iraqi soldiers still killing people? Although this movie has no real scenes of war, just small skir-

mishes, this movie is still very gruesome. This is the first movie I have seen in which a scene of someone shot is accompanied with a focus on what is going on in his insides at the same time.

The plot of the movie is nothing new: three or four people obsessing over gold, and that's all she wrote.

The ending of the movie was absolutely terrible because there was no ending, just an explanation of what happened to each character after the movie. I don't consider a written ending for a movie a real ending, but at least the director of this movie added scenes to illustrate each explanation.

This movie did have good aspects. The cinematography is first rate; the special effects are grand also. The characters are funny and well developed. I give this movie 2 and 1/2 stars but hope that there won't be a sequel.



## Cross-Country Undefeated in Dual Meets

By Jeff Sweeney

In the scorching heat, a few real men stand ready at the line. Ready to show their opponents what hours in the weight room and strenuous two-a-days can do. Ready to fight and muscle their way forward toward one goal. The opposing teams cower before us. It could only mean another season of MBA cross-country.

After several weeks of summer practice, including a week of cross-country camp, the season finally began with the Drake Invitational. The team, finishing with the top eight places, easily defeated the opposition. In the second meet of the season, MBA defeated CPA, Hume-Fogg, and Ezell-Harding by almost fifty points. In the third meet of the

season, The Tennessee Classic, MBA faced forty-five teams, of which several were from out of state. The JV ran well and finished in fifth place. With five of our top seven running personal records, the varsity finished sixth among the toughest competition.

This year's team, consisting of thirty-five members, is larger, but also younger than it has been for several years. Only three of last year's varsity runners, senior William Lea and sophomores Brandon Booth and Morgan Miller, return this year. The team is depending upon seniors Will Corbett, Andrew Frazer, and David Pruitt, juniors Drew Conrad and Jeff Sweeney, and sophomores Allen Callison, Nick Reid, and Chris Vutsinas to finish well. They

also have high hopes for freshmen Clayton Trammell, Nathan Mulherin, and Robert Stewart for this and later seasons. Two new coaches - Mr. Russ, the replacement for Mr. Leach to whom he bears an eerie resemblance, and Ms. Browne - have joined the returning coaching staff of Mr. Pruitt and Mr. Callen.

This year's team hopes to continue the streak and win its third state championship in a row. After the first three meets, the chance of achieving this goal seems fairly high. With the

leadership of the coaches and the seniors - Brent Burish, Will Corbett, Andrew Frazer, Mason Guiffre, William Lea, David Pruitt, and Adam Sinks - this young team should win the state championship on

November 6. Win or lose, we will put up a tough fight.

The runners would like to thank those who have cheered them on and encourage support of the team. Meets generally are held on Saturdays and

Thursdays at the Steeplechase.



Runners (l-r) Will Corbett, Morgan Miller, Jeff Sweeney, and William Lea forge ahead

## The Big Red's Massacres

Football team continues undefeated campaign in quest to repeat as Clinic Bowl victors

By Tom Atkinson and Mike Anand

The Big Red football team kicked off the 1999-2000 season hoping to

capture its second straight state title. With a strong senior class leading the way and youth at the quarterback position, the team had a promising year planned.

The group's first challenge was Lincoln County. The Big Red stormed in early on the Class 5A powerhouse, as the team scored on the opening drive of the game on an Ingle Martin touchdown run. The rest of the first half was a defensive struggle, and the team went into halftime with a 7-0 lead.

On the opening drive of the second half, Lincoln County turned the ball over, and the Big Red capitalized, as senior tailback Jonas Rodriguez capped off a drive with a two yard run for a score. Later that same quarter, MBA scored on a three yard run by junior Moses Osemwegie, and the team prevailed in the season opener, 22-14.

MBA traveled to Murfreesboro to play the 1998 Class 5A state champion, Oakland, at Middle Tennessee State's field. Ingle Martin showed his running skills once again, as he scampered for a 35 yard touchdown run, putting the Big

Red up 7-0. Rodriguez and senior receiver Barton Simmons also scored. The defense also had a big showing, holding the Patriots to under 100 total yards on offense, as MBA rolled on to another victory, 21-0.

The much-anticipated home opener against Division II rival Baylor packed the stands of Tommy Owen Stadium with people from all across the state. Just as it did the week before, the Big Red defense posted a shut-out, as the team won 34-0. However, senior and key offensive lineman Eric Larence suffered a season ending knee injury.

Starting of the year 3-0 for the first time in many years, the Big Red had their

toughest challenge of the season ahead: the powerhouse Bolles Bulldogs. Had the Big Red prepared enough, both in practices and in games, for a nationally recognized team?

Bolles, a private school located in Jacksonville, Florida, came into Nashville having won 16 straight games over the last two seasons and thinking

they had a clear advantage over the smaller Division II state champs of Tennessee. In 1998, the Bolles football team won the state championship and had an unblemished 15-0 record. Despite

numerous NCAA Division I prospects, the Bulldogs did not intimidate MBA.

On the first drive of the game, Barton Simmons started the scoring with an amazing interception, which he ran 37 yards for a touchdown. But the real excitement started when MBA was down 21-20 with under two minutes remaining. Playing for a last second field goal, Ingle

Martin led a charge up the field. The field goal plans were changed when Ingle broke away on a 17 yard run to score the game-winning touchdown. Though the Big Red went for a two point conversion and failed, the team was able to hold on, 26-21.

The next week, MBA rolled into Memphis to challenge the Memphis

University School Fighting...Owls. Ingle Martin ran for two touchdowns, as the Big Red racked up 183 yards rushing. Touchdowns by Moses Osemwegie and Jonas Rodriguez contributed to the fierce

ground attack. Senior K.B. Parkes recovered a fumble and ran it back for a score to give MBA 35-0 lead at the half. The second string defense did not give up any points in the second and the game



Jonas breaks a tackle and moves upfield



Coach Ricky Bowers looks on as his team piles up the points



Football team captains (l-r) Jonas Rodriguez, Tate Rich, and Barton Simmons prepare metally for the coin toss



## MBA Produces for Vandy

By David Was

Consistently producing solid Division I talent, MBA's football program has a strong connection with the Vanderbilt Commodores. Currently, there are five former MBA players on the Vanderbilt football team, playing in one of the most prominent college sports conferences in America, the SEC, on an improving football team.

The player who has contributed the most thus far during his tenure at Vanderbilt is John Markham '97. Markham was an Associated Press first team 5A all-state selection as a place-kicker at MBA and, in addition, played soccer. A 6'1" 210-lb. junior, Markham has been the starting place-kicker and kickoff man for the Commodores because of his field goal range of 50+ yards since he arrived at Vandy. Against Alabama last year, Markham even attempted a 63 yarder that was blocked. He led the team in scoring in both 1997 and 1998. Entering the 1999 season, his 86 career points is more than all other current Vandy players and he is on pace to finish second in school history. This year Markham not only serves as place-kicker/kickoff man, but also he has taken over the punting duties since starting punter Joe Webb went down with a fractured left patella. Markham has performed impressively this year as both the kicker and punter. After four games, Markham is 5 of 6 in field goals and has a punt average of 43.5 yards per punt. Currently he is ranked in the top 3 in the SEC and is in the top 16 nationally in both the punting and field goal categories.



Freshman Hunter Hillenmeyer '99, 6'4" 230-lbs,

signed a scholarship last spring to play under head coach Woody Widenhofer. Hillenmeyer, a two-time all-state selection at MBA who led the Big Red to the 1998 state championship, is a back-up under an extremely talented corps of starting linebackers. He has seen action on the punt coverage, kickoff return, and

kickoff coverage teams. In Vandy's dramatic 37-34 upset win at Mississippi, Hillenmeyer made a touch-down-saving tackle when he managed to trip up the Ole Miss kick returner. He contributed a tackle in Vandy's 31-14 victory at Duke and even caught a pass for six yards during a fake punt.

Aaron Lara '97 is another former Big Red football player who is a member of the black and gold. Lara, a walk-on who transferred from Rhodes College in Memphis, is a 6'0" 200-lb junior linebacker. He was among the leaders in the conference in tackles at Rhodes. In his senior year at MBA, he made the all-district and all-metro teams.

Walk-ons Ben Burn and Jay Davis join Hunter Hillenmeyer as representatives of the MBA Class of 1999 on the Commodores football team.

Burn, a 6'0" 258-lb. freshman, is a defensive lineman. Davis is the back-up kicker behind Markham.

Vanderbilt is fortunate to have MBA, with a storied tradition of 101 years of football, providing talented athletes. All five of these players have had to work hard to make it to where they are. Vanderbilt has its first legitimate chance of having a winning season and going to a bowl game in seventeen years. They are now experiencing something special in life that few others have the opportunity to be a part of: playing football in a top-notch conference at one of the finest academic schools in the nation.

At the rate at which they are going, MBA could take over Vandy's football team. Just as the Nashville Sounds feed into the Pittsburgh Pirates, MBA resembles a "farm team."

Can't you see Ingle Martin taking over for Greg Zolman at quarterback, Jonas Rodriguez for Jared McGrath at tailback, and Barton Simmons for Todd Yoder at wide receiver/tight end?



## Golf Team's Fate in Question As Season Closes

By John Eason

The Montgomery Bell Academy golf team is back at it again in the '99 season and they are really going to need some guys to step up without Noble Judy and State Champion Brendt Snedeker. In their first match of the season, the Big Red faced off with Father Ryan. The match was held at Belle Meade Country Club, a par 72 course, and they played 18 holes. Treat MacAllister had MBA's top score of even par 72. Carter Henderson also shot a great round of three over par

"I believe that the team is beginning to step it up and get things back together. I feel that this team will be able to finish off the season very well"

--Grant Worsham, Varsity

Golfer

75. Even with these great scores the Big Red fell three shots short of defeating their rival, Father Ryan. The final score was Father Ryan 312-MBA 315.

In their next match the team was again not able to come up with a victory. They played both Marshall Co. and Father Ryan at Saddle Creek and lost to both teams. In the Big Red's third match of the year they faced Brentwood High, Brentwood Academy and Beech. The team was able to tie for second with BA. The top score for MBA was a 38 by Duncan Fort. In the team's fourth match they were finally able to pull out a victory by defeating BGA 141 to 145. MBA had

some dazzling scores from Carter Henderson, 32, Treat MacAllister, 34, Brad McDowell, 37 and Will Fuqua, 38. On Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Big Red competed in the Bruy Club of Franklin. This Invitational was compiled of 17 teams in Tennessee. MBA had a total score of 300 putting them in 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of the 17 teams. Treat MacAllister once again shot a great round of one under par 71. Also coming in with good scores were Carter Henderson with an even par 72 and Graham Worsham with a seven over par 79. When asked about how the team was doing so far midway through the season, Graham Worsham replied, "I believe that the team is beginning to step it up and get things back together. I feel that this team will be able to finish off the season very well." If you are interested in coming out and seeing any of the matches check the calendar for date, time and place. The team could use a lot more crowd support in the matches for the rest of the season. In their next match of the season the Big Red face off with BGA and Dickson Co. MBA came in second out of the three teams, beating Dickson Co. and losing to BGA. Top scores out of the teams 156 were Treat MacAllister, 36, and Graham Worsham, 38.

The biggest match of the season proved to be an MBA victory over Father Ryan that has helped keep their spirits up and hopes alive as the team heads towards the region match.

(Editor's note: The region match concluded too close to press time to include scores. See next issue of the Bell Ringer for a wrap-up of the season.)

## East India Club

The East India Club sits on the second floor of Merchant's Walk Shopping Center, just at the edge of Brentwood. Starched white tablecloths, an immaculate setting, and attentive servers set this Indian restaurant apart from others throughout Nashville. The menu features a variety of traditional vegetable, lamb, chicken, seafood, and beef entrees, highlighted by yogurt, curry, tomato, spinach, and Indian spices. To buffer the often spicy dishes, East India Club serves an array of Indian breads. Reservations are recommended for dinner and Saturday brunch.



**HOURS:**  
Mon-Fri 11:30am- 2:00pm  
Mon-Thu 5:30pm-10:00pm  
Fri-Sat 5:30pm-10:30pm  
Sat 12:00am- 2:30pm

**LOCATION:**  
Very close to the 1st  
Brentwood Exit, off I-65  
AT  
4926 Thoroughbred Lane  
Brentwood 37027-4226  
(615) 661-9919

**PRICES:**  
Lunch entrees \$5-\$9;  
dinner entrees \$7-\$14.



# Cogito, Ergo Vroom

by Taylor Caillet Sutherland

## Robert Farringer's 1985 Volkswagen Golf

### Vehicle Type:

Five-door Sporting coupe

Price as tested with sentimental value factored in: \$35,000

### Price and option breakdown:

- Base Volkswagen Golf, \$5000B
- Blaring Sony CD player and multiple non-working speakers, \$800
- Metallic midnight blue paint with individualized sun spots \$3500
- Alfredo / Platinum Phish Security System, \$0.25
- Built in chick magnet with optional chick repellent, \$1250.33
- Custom floor mats, \$500
- RF Performance Package (Includes racing suspension, rack and pinion steering, ventilated disc brakes, nitrous oxide boosters, A/C, limited slip differential, fire extinguisher, and handy safety goggles) \$10000
- Bag of money filled with remaining worth of vehicle as tested (\*subtract all this from \$35,000)

### TS Test Results:

- Zero to 60 in 9.5 sec
- 100 mph: varies depending on type of big rig it is being transported on
- Street Start 5-60 (Assuming VERY steep hill): 3.5 sec

### Handling:

- Unparalleled among mass marked 5-door vehicles produced in Germany.

### Steering/Braking:

- See John Deere owner's manual #3321 on the Little Heifer Lawn Helper

### Test Drive Summary:

Nothing feels quite like sitting behind the wheel of a high performance German automobile, wind blowing through your hair, driving gloves gripping the wheel at 10 and 2, a beautiful Swedish girl named Bunny squealing through every hairpin turn as you race to the club for some cocktails. Many things, however, prove

just as exciting as driving Robert Farringer's Golf. For example, the wildest, scariest, most mind-boggling roller coaster you can build in your back yard out of cardboard. Like riding a wild bull across the plains of Texas... that happens to be dead. Like driving one of Mr. Norton's GOLF (Just irony, I think not.) carts around the MBA track, waiting for the steering wheel to snap off in your expectant hands. With all seriousness though, this Bavarian Roadrunner is a dream on the open road.

The first thing you notice upon getting in the Golf is the "cab forward" design of the interior. Not to be confused with the modern meaning of this term, the Germans meant that anyone taller than 5'10" sitting in the front seat will be cramped in the front of the car and have his knees approximately touching his chin. Next the "totally retro" ergonomics of the interior strike the eye. Nothing is quite as appealing as the cockpit-like feel of the Golf at night as various lights, indicating either a low battery or engine trouble, flash on and off through each fun-filled turn. After adjusting the manual seats (the motors for automatic seats presenting an unnecessary weight issue) and whispering a prayer to your chosen deity, the abounding roominess of the rest of the interior becomes quite obvious.

Few of today's compact cars offer as much sleeping compatibility for two full-sized gentlemen in need of a place to bed down. (Note the non-sleepability of the popular Geo Metro or Ford Festiva, both par knockoffs of the original Golf.)

But it is the turn of the key that catches your attention most. The lawn-mower like purring of the engine ignites a fire in even the faintest heart. Give the engine a few rpms, and notice how the Germans have fine-tuned this beautiful four-cylinder so masterfully that at 5500rpms you still can't tell the thing is even on. On the road, the Golf handles beautifully, diving into every turn gracefully and drifting at just the right times.

What then should be said about this fine automobile in reflection? What can the modern driver take away from being behind the helm of such a luxurious cruiser? Nothing, but a thankfulness that the power of the Golf, its inherent beauty, and the inspiration it is to all of the gas-guzzling SUVs it is flanked by in our very own parking lot everyday, is on our side and forever will be. Thanks for parking a little piece of your heart with us Bob.

## Grease--Sold Out All Four Nights--Rocks the House

By Andy Gray

The rebels, jocks, preps, and nerds, and the ongoing struggle to fit in came alive in the Rydell High Class of '59 at Harpeth Hall's Francis Bond Davis Theater. Invariably many of the same social scenarios can be seen even in our own high school, forty years after the setting of *Grease*, proving the timelessness of the traditional archetype of high school social structure. The familiar tunes and costumes and good student performances all served to entertain, amuse, and uplift the spirits of all audience members.

The show opened with a bang as Jeffrey Harris '03 was chosen from the audience to dance on-stage in a pre-show bit of amusement.

The production itself quickly came to life as the Greasers and Pink Ladies were introduced. Aaron Manier provided the voice and personality of Vince Fontaine. John Voigt, as Danny Zuko, played the

leader of the Greasers, which consisted of Charlie Harris as Doody, Jonathan Batchelor as Roger, Chip Howorth as Kenickie, Judson Mulherin as Sonny LaTierri, and Peter Ripley as Duke.

Katie Howell mastered the role of Sandy Dumbrowski, the naive "new girl" and love interest of Danny.

Each of the Pink Ladies turned in great performances, mixing skillful acting with impressive singing. Kristina Hoge (Marty), Liz Edwards (Jan), Audrey Ball (Penny), Katie Christenberry (Frenchy), and Fabienne Diskin (Betty Rizzo) each played her part to perfection. Albert Marks stood out in a hilarious performance as Eugene Florczyk, the class nerd.

Just a few outstanding performances were Charlie Harris singing "Rock 'n Roll Party Queen," Kristina Hoge singing "Freddie, My Love," and Jonathan Batchelor's hilarious rendition of "Mooning."

However, there were too many

good performances to list here.

Finally, Ben Derry, Sasha Chudacoff, and Jessica Turk enthusiastically and successfully played the parts of Johnny Casino, Cha-Cha DiGregorio, and Miss Lynch, respectively.

Nearly of the cast and crew members agree that the show turned out remarkably well on opening night.

According to Tommy McGinn, "there wasn't much cooperation between the cast and crew going into opening night. There was a lot of tension between techies and actors. But on opening night everything came together so well. I've never seen a show turn around like that."

After talking to numerous members of the show, this can be said to be the general consensus.

This great turn around is especially great considering the tremendous success of the show. All four shows were sold out in advance, an uncommon feat (although this show is not the first) in MBA/

Harpeth Hall theater production.

Producer and MBA theater director Dr. Cal Fuller said, "It's great to see so many people in attendance, and I'm very proud of all the actors and individuals who worked on *Grease*."

Finally, I must give the show a well-deserved two thumbs-up for the quality of all performances, as well as the superb job of the set crew.

*Grease*

has certainly set a new standard in MBA and Harpeth Hall theater productions.

MBA theater's next production, *Black Comedy* by Peter Schaffer and *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard, is playing December 2-5 at the Paschall Theater



*Greasers (l-r) Judson Mulherin, Charlie Harris, Chip Howorth, Peter Ripley, and Jonathan Batchelor pose during rehearsals*



*The whole cast "together forever" in the last musical number before the finale*



## New Fall Television Shows Reveal Lack of Promise

By Johnny Sisk

Remember when television networks used to air sitcoms starring people over forty? Or how about a drama not involving teenagers who don't seem to have any homework at all ... ever? Or a time when Jane Pauley didn't clutter the airwaves with *Dateline NBC* every night of every week? Well, those days are long gone, and with each passing year, it seems harder and harder to find new shows worthy of anyone's attention. This fall (the season of rebirth for television—maybe that's its problem) brings us a recently grown crop of 38 brand new shows, three or four of which might be good, but please don't hold your collective breath. This new batch of freshly-baked shows with half-baked ideas won't exactly make your mouth water, but here, just to let you know what's worth looking at—and what's not—is a delicious, yet all the while, bitter taste of what television has in store for you this season.

One of the smartest, if not creatively lacking, ideas presented on the tube this fall has been the networks' branding a two or three series under the same name to familiarize the viewer with the new show on the air. Two prominent examples of this innovative technique can be seen in the new series NBC's *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and FOX's *Ally*. Both shows attempt to attract viewers by their familiar names and familiar formats. On the new *Law & Order* series airing Mondays, a new group of detectives investigate sex crimes in New York while on *Ally*—that's right, a thirty-minute episode of *Ally McBeal*—FOX tries to emulate the original's success by condensing the show's hour-long "dramedy" into a half-hour laugh-fest. Seems hardly plausible considering last year, the second season of *Ally McBeal* provided maybe one or two laughs. While *Special Victims Unit* will most likely succeed with its provocative subject matter and diverse cast, a retreat of *Ally McBeal*—a show that only got more annoying as last season dragged on—can hardly provide any new takes on the lawyer in a miniskirt everyone loves, or used to for that



matter.

Next up, we have a disturbing trend on network television all of a sudden: the emergence of nearly ten shows involving PWKWP—pretty white kids with problems. Among the alumni in this department are shows such as *Beverly Hills 90210* (that's still on?!), and *Party of Five*. Current students include *Dawson's Creek*, *Charmed*, and *Felicity*. And newcomers joining the institution this year will be Jennifer Love Hewitt's *PO5* spin-off, *Time of Your Life*, FOX's *Get Real* and *Manchester Prep*, the WB's *Popular*, and ABC's *Wasteland*, which is exactly what this TV season is shaping up to be. Without going into any detail at all, I can just say with comfortable certainty that all of these shows will deal with the angst that comes with teenage life. If only those pressures and difficulties amounted to the angst of trying to sit through just one of these new shows.



And now to the people who are actually trying

ing, at least making it look like they are, come four new shows to keep an eye on. The first, *The West Wing* (NBC, Wednesdays, 8-9 C) goes into the White House to find Martin Sheen as president and Rob Lowe as one of his assistants. So crazy, it's got to work, right? You be the judge. The following night sees FOX make its first real attempt at a live-action comedy in years with *Action* (FOX, Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 C) starring Jay Mohr as Peter Dragon, a tycoon movie producer, and Illeana Douglas, a child star-turned-self-conscious whore as his "girlfriend." The show was apparently so good and innovative that the FOX executives decided to put it up against the most dominant block of comedy in the history of television, NBC's Thursday night juggernaut. So much for that show. Enjoy it while you can.

Thirdly, Chris Carter's latest attempt to follow up his brilliant *X-Files* comes in the form of *Harsh Realm* (FOX, Fridays, 8-9 C), a sci-fi drama involving virtual reality and the consequences that come in it. Sounds pretty spooky. Now if only the show can "spook" up more people than Carter's last try did—*Millennium*—in the same time period. Finally, NBC's *Freaks and Geeks* (NBC, Saturdays, 7-8 C) tries to relive those glory days of the ... early 80's! Following a bunch of kids around—the freaks and the geeks, hence, the show's brilliant title—it sounds an

awful lot like another show which involved high school glory days, *The Wonder Years*. The end of a recession and the beginning of the Reagan revolution doesn't sound like much wonder is involved here, but NBC is hoping to attract all of those kids who are at home on Saturday night—so am I a freak or a geek? To find out what you are yourself, tune in every rockin' Saturday evening

And then, of course, are the returning shows. So, quickly, here's my fall TV forecast. Mondays belong to ABC with Monday Night Football (even if it does have Boomer Esiason) back at 8 where it belongs. Tuesdays are a tossup between *Spin City*, who

just picked up Heather Locklear, and *Just Shoot Me*, where Finch (David Spade) has married Rebecca Romijn-Stamos. Other strong shows airing Tuesdays are ABC's *Dharma & Greg* and *NYPD Blue*. NBC counters with *Will & Grace* and *Dateline NBC*, respectively. While *Blue* will most likely beat *Dateline*, I still think Stone Phillips could kick Sipowicz's butt. The WB's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is the hidden treasure on this night, while—I warn you now—avoid UPN's *Shasta McNasty* for its dumb title alone. Lord knows that this show's premise (which recently won the "What kind of crack were they smoking when they came up with this one?" award) involving a white rapper livin' la vida



but I hope its competitor, FOX's recently moved *That 70's Show*, infects it with a fatal case of disco fever from which Shasta dies a slow, painfully McNasty death. On Wednesday, Norm McDonald is back for his second season on a revamped *Norm*, which, with the addition of *Murphy Brown*'s Faith Ford, has proved much funnier so far this time around. Drew Carey returns at 8 to complement Norm as the two sole laugh-getters of the night. *Law & Order* remains on NBC at 9 with yet another cast change but, what would a new season of *Law & Order* be without a new cast change, really? On Thursdays, networks eager to destroy NBC's fading Thursday night are attacking from all sides. UPN's *WWF Smackdown!* hopes to cash in on pro wrestling's popularity with a two-hour

show every week from 7-9. FOX offers *Family Guy* and *Action* while CBS showcases its revamped *Chicago Hope*. However, no matter how many different shows air opposite NBC's Thursday, one thing remains certain: *Friends* and *Frasier* are the two strongest sitcoms on the air today and it will take a lot more than wrestling to bring them down. On *Friends*, the friends play musical rooms as Chandler moves in with Monica while Rachel can't find a home. Later on the best sitcom on television, *Frasier*, the characters will be going through a

transitional period with Daphne's supposed impending

marriage. However, this season should be better than last with the Crane brothers' unstable romantic relationships as well as a special Thanksgiving-night telecast in which Bebe Neuwirth's Lilith returns. On Friday ... does anyone really care what's happening on *Nash Bridges*? Then, on Saturday, Chuck Norris is back fighting crime on *Walker, Texas Ranger* ... oh, what's the point? Finally, on Sunday, the season's most competitive night, both FOX and CBS should fare well with their afternoon football coverage leading into strong primetime schedules. On CBS, their workhorse, *60 Minutes* and perennial ratings champ, *Touched by an Angel*, compete with FOX's *The*

### DATE LINE

hip hop is annoying enough. I never thought I would say this,

*Simpsons*, *Futurama*, and the final season of *The X-Files*. Not to mention ABC's new *Snoops* followed by Emmy winner *The Practice*, sounds like war to me. Oh, yeah, and FOX's lineup is, by far, the best. *The Simpsons* is timeless, *Futurama* is, well, timeless also, and *The X-Files*' conspiracy is finally revealed in its final twenty shows ... maybe! Sounds like Sundays will be fun on FOX.

And so another season begins and another one ends ... well, at least a few series' seasons should (*Veronica's Closet*, *Suddenly Susan*). And a few series should be brought back (*Homicide: Life on the Street*). But whatever this season brings, there's definitely something in there for you—there always is—a show which you can relate to on a personal level and feel a deep, mutual understanding (*Freaks & Geeks*, stop kidding yourself).





## Back Page Opinion: Speed Limits

by James Patton

Why do we have speed limit violation laws? A simple question, one would think. We have speeding laws to protect the public. The chances of death in an accident at high speeds are greater than those at low speeds. And yet, safety belt propaganda would have us believe that the vast majority of automobile accidents occur at speeds below thirty-five miles per hour, in an effort to convince people to wear their safety belts in spite of the speed at which they will be traveling. So, if most accidents occur at low speeds, why the emphasis on enforcing the speed limits?

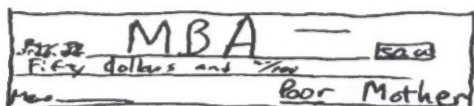
Hold that thought. Now, ask yourself, do people caught speeding resolve to not speed ever again? By no means. However, people caught embezzling, for example, often change their habits, if for no other reason than to evade punishment. Why could this be? Ah, now we observe something called the "Singapore Principle." The severity of the punishment is inversely proportional to the number of infractions against the law. If the punishment for speeding were death, say, how many people would speed? This is not the case, however. The punishment for speeding is a fine. Do people care about a fine? No, they pay it and continue to do the action that engendered the fine in

the first place. If they are caught again, they pay another fine, and think nothing of it, because they think, "Well, I was breaking the law..." Speeding laws are a source of income for local governments everywhere. By having speed limit laws with trivial consequences, they skim money off of the general populace without their knowledge. This is doubly repugnant, because in having trivial consequences, they definitely do not protect the public against individuals who speed excessively, who may provide real danger to the public.

This is further proven in the fact that police officers have quotas of speeders they must pull over each month. Another way of looking at this is to say that they must bring in X dollars every month.

Now, to recapitulate, speeding laws, which in principle do little to protect against accidents in the first place, as is shown by safety belt statistics, protect even less in practice, as they are trivial in consequence and do not decrease the number of speeders on the streets. To truly protect the public, first, almost universally raise the speed limit everywhere, as it exists for the purpose of creating speeders. Then, increase the punishment for speeding violations to the point that the speeder will think twice before speeding again.

## Comics by Andrew Frazer



Is that your spaghetti supper ticket money?  
No! It's my LUNCH money.

### Debate of Demerits

#### Teachers

Behavior described in MBA hand book.

Proper gentlemanly conduct.

Upholding of MBA ideals.

That's demerits!

#### Students

C'mon.

Oh, please.

What the f—

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
Patrick Wilson Library  
Montgomery Bell Academy  
Nashville, Tennessee

## MBA/HH Trip (cont. from pg. 4)

The play, done with amazingly few scene changes, was humorous and entertaining.

After London, we made a number of one or two night stays in several other British cities, being driven from city to city by a bizarre, frightening bus driver named Brian.

Dr. Griffith quoted Thomas Hardy in describing Oxford as the "city of dreaming spires." Upon touring Oxford and observing the Gothic architecture, it was obvious that this description is accurate.

Punting, a common activity at Oxford, involves one man propelling a flat-bottom boat down a river with a metal pole. However simple punting might sound and even appear, I learned differently after five minutes of spinning the boat in a circle and going nowhere. One group of MBA and Harpeth Hall students had to step out of their boat and pull it along the shore in order to make it upstream.

Other stops were made in Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, and Stonehenge. The production of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, viewed in Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, certainly had its positive and negative points. The portrayals of the two lovers as middle aged, and Antony as whining and puny were contrary to the picture most had previously conceived mentally.

We toured the Roman baths in Bath, the green, boiling waters of which supposedly have healing powers. The remains of a Roman resort town from the first century A.D. surround the baths, built for Roman soldiers to bathe in, and the remains of a Roman temple are present as well. Stonehenge, a calendar constructed by the Druids thousands of years ago, proved to be much more striking than a mere pile of rocks.

The group was ferried across the channel to arrive in France after over a week in England. Upon arriving, a visit was made to the historic D-Day beaches and a stop was made in Normandy to visit the World War II museum and the American cemetery of 9386 graves. Many of the bunkers are still intact and clearly

show the devastation of the attack. The first overnight stay in France was in the maritime city of Saint Malo, possibly the most picturesque city of the entire trip. Attempting to speak with people of a different language than I took a great deal

of patience. Fortunately, English was fairly widely-spoken, especially in Paris. A full day trip was required to visit the abbey of Mont Saint-Michel which was impressive architecturally and historically. The group was also privileged to

visit Chartres cathedral, widely considered the most beautiful Gothic structure in Europe according to Malcolm Miller, a famous guide and Chartres aficionado.

A total of four days and nights were spent in Paris. Among the sites visited were the Louvre, the Orsay, Monet's garden at Giverny, and the Eiffel Tower. For many, Paris was the most enjoyed stop.

Molly Kaplan, a Harpeth Hall student on the trip, says, "Paris was definitely my favorite site. For someone that enjoys art as much as I do, there are few other places on earth with such an inviting wealth of works from almost any period in history."

The Louvre, being the most extensive art museum on earth, was so enormous that it was almost overwhelming. I personally enjoyed the National Gallery in London more for the reason that the National Gallery is more organized and a greater spectrum of art can be seen in a short amount of time. In Monet's garden many recognizable images were present, particularly a refurbished Japanese bridge and a pond covered in waterlilies.

According to Dr. Griffith, "The trip emerged out of my bantering relationship with Mrs. O'Connell and our friendly rivalry over the virtues of each nation. We wanted to give students the opportunity to view both cultures."

Dr. Griffith and Mrs. O'Connell certainly achieved this goal. The experiences from this trip will last a lifetime.

Finally, I must admit, although grudgingly, that both cultures consist of much more than snobbish citizens, lame sports, and scheming terrorists.

